- The State Government has arrested 8 persons (of which 6 are Government officials and 1 retired officer of the State Government) on 12.8.2009, who were subsequently released on bail.
- State Level Task Force has been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary.
- All the District Collectors have been directed to hold District Level Task Force meetings regularly, verify the lease hold areas and take appropriate action.
- The State Level Enforcement Squad constituted earlier has now been strengthened and enforcement activities intensified.
- The Department has introduced newly designed Transit Passes printed in Government Printing Press.

The State Government has also reported on 16.11.2009 that it has taken the following additional action in this matter:

- 128 mining leases for various minerals including iron ore, manganese, chromite, limestone, dolomite and quartzite, where application for renewal of lease had been pending have been verified and mining operations suspended.
- 482 licences granted by the State for trading and storage of minerals have been suspended/cancelled.
- State Level Enforcement squad is conducting intensive inspection of non grant areas to check for illegal mining.
- The Mines Department in the State has begun verification of the mining lease boundaries, for which remote sensing technology is also proposed to be used.
- Four Committees have been constituted at State level for setting up integrated check gates, Revenue Intelligence, Study rationalization of weigh-bridges, and Study to deploy IT application in mineral administration.
- Filling up vacant post in the Mines Department of the State Government to enhance enforcement.

The Government has not come across any instance of clandestine transportation of iron ore, chromites and manganese into China and Bangladesh. However, the export of these minerals is guided by the EXIM policy laid down by the Government.

**Contract workers in NALCO**

379. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contract workers working in NALCO;

(b) the number of gate-pass issued to the contract labour in NALCO; and

(c) the number of contract labour who are covered under EPF and ESIC?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has informed that the total number of contract labours working under various contractors in the Company as on 31.10.2009 are 14490.

(b) The total number of gate-pass issued to the contract labour in NALCO as on 31.10.2009 are 12829.

(c) The contract labours covered under EPF are 14490 and under ESIC are 8866, as on 31.10.2009.

**Theft and Illegal mining in Orissa**

380. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are allegations about mining exploitation leakage, theft, illegal mining and transport in Barbil, Orissa;

(b) whether big industrial houses, mine owners from the State and outside, political leaders are involved in the theft and illegal mining in Barbil and Sukinda chromite mines area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government would order for CBI inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (c) Some instances of illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore in Keonjhar district of Orissa have come to the notice of the Government. The Indian Bureau of Mines inquiries has found evidence of illegal mining of 1957 tonnes of iron ore and 56453 tonnes of manganese ore, of a value of approximately Rs.23.39 crores.

The State Government of Orissa has informed that :-

- A Vigilance investigation is underway
- Administrative enquiry is underway
- The State Government has arrested 8 persons (of which 6 are Government officials and 1 retired officer of the State Government) on 12.8.2009, who were subsequently released on bail.
- State Level Task Force has been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary.
- All the District Collectors have been directed to hold District Level Task Force meetings regularly, verify the lease hold areas and take appropriate action.
- The State Level Enforcement Squad constituted earlier has now been strengthened and enforcement activities intensified.

  The Department has introduced newly designed Transit Passes printed in Government Printing Press.